
IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Currently amended) A method of managing input/output drawers within a data processing system, the method comprising:
- assigning a unique identifier to each of a plurality of input/output drawers; and
 - storing the unique identifier in memory;
- wherein the unique identifier is used by an operating system to identify the plurality of input/output drawers regardless of how the input/output drawers are interconnected by cables, such that physical addresses used when accessing devices contained within said plurality of input/output drawers do not change when reconfiguring at least one of the said plurality of input/output drawers within the data processing system by physical insertion, physical removal or physical rearrangement, wherein the physical addresses that do not change include physical addresses used when accessing devices contained within the reconfigured drawer(s).
2. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 1, further comprising:
- responsive to a determination that a new input/output drawer has been added to the data processing system, assigning a new unique identifier to the new input/output drawer, wherein the new unique identifier is different from any of the unique identifiers previously assigned, such that each of the plurality of input/output drawers maintains the same unique identifier.
- 1 3. (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the method is performed in a service processor.
- 3 4. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the unique identifier and the new unique identifier are stored in a device tree.
5. (Previously presented) The method as recited in claim 2, wherein the unique identifier comprise device nodes and location codes.

4/3 (Original) The method as recited in claim 1, wherein the device tree is stored in a system memory.

6/1. (Original) The method as recited in claim 2, further comprising:
updating a device tree to reflect a configuration of the data processing system after inclusion of the new input/output drawer.

8. (Currently amended) A computer program product in a computer readable media for use in a data processing system for managing input/output drawers within the data processing system, the computer program product comprising:

first instructions for assigning a unique identifier to each of a plurality of input/output drawers; and

second instructions for storing the unique identifier in memory;

wherein the unique identifier is used by an operating system to identify the plurality of input/output drawers regardless of how the input/output drawers are interconnected by cables, such that physical addresses used when accessing devices contained within said plurality of input/output drawers do not change when reconfiguring at least one of ~~the said plurality of~~ input/output drawers within the data processing system by physical insertion, physical removal or physical rearrangement, wherein the physical addresses that do not change include physical addresses used when accessing devices contained within the reconfigured drawer(s).

9. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 8, further comprising:

third instructions, responsive to a determination that a new input/output drawer has been added to the data processing system, for assigning a new unique identifier to the new input/output drawer, wherein the new unique identifier is different from any of the unique identifiers previously assigned, such that each of the plurality of input/output drawers maintains the same unique identifier.

- 14¹⁰. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 8, wherein said first and second instructions are executed in a service processor.
- 10¹¹. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein the unique identifier and the new unique identifier are stored in a device tree.
12. (Previously presented) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, wherein the unique identifier comprise device nodes and location codes.
- 11¹³. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 10¹⁰, wherein the device tree is stored in a system memory.
- 13¹⁴. (Original) The computer program product as recited in claim 9, further comprising:
fourth instructions for updating a device tree to reflect a configuration of the data processing system after inclusion of the new input/output drawer.
15. (Currently amended) A system for managing input/output drawers within a data processing system, the system comprising:
first means for assigning a unique identifier to each of a plurality of input/output drawers; and
second means for storing the unique identifier in memory;
wherein the unique identifier is used by an operating system to identify the plurality of input/output drawers regardless of how the input/output drawers are interconnected by cables, such that physical addresses used when accessing devices contained within said plurality of input/output drawers do not change when reconfiguring at least one of the said plurality of input/output drawers within the data processing system by physical insertion, physical removal or physical rearrangement, wherein the physical addresses that do not change include physical addresses used when accessing devices contained within the reconfigured drawer(s).

16. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 15, further comprising:
third means, responsive to a determination that a new input/output drawer has been added to the data processing system, for assigning a new unique identifier to the new input/output drawer, wherein the new unique identifier is different from any of the unique identifiers previously assigned, such that each of the plurality of input/output drawers maintains the same unique identifier.

217. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 15, wherein said first and second means are executed in a service processor.

1718. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the unique identifier and the new unique identifier are stored in a device tree.

19. (Previously presented) The system as recited in claim 16, wherein the unique identifier comprise device nodes and location codes.

1820. (Original) The system as recited in claim 18, wherein the device tree is stored in a system memory.

2021. (Original) The system as recited in claim 16, further comprising:
fourth means for updating a device tree to reflect a configuration of the data processing system after inclusion of the new input/output drawer.